

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-17 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 5-9 and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-17. No new matter is added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action sets forth at page 2 "Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite ..." The rejection of claims 2 and 5 are obviated by their cancellation. Applicants have appropriately amended the remaining claims and respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 4 "Claims 1 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Wich (6,276,739); at page 5 "Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wich as applied above in view of DE '181;" and at page 6 "Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wich as applied above in view of Shikata et al. (6,641,195)." Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are overcome by the amendments to the claims and for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 5 and intervening claim 2, and have rewritten allowable claims 8 and 13 into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 8 and 13 are allowable over the prior art. Remaining claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-12 and 14-17 ultimately depend upon and allowable independent claim and, thus, are likewise allowable.

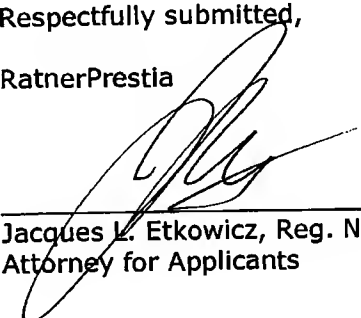
Application No. 10/594,166
Amendment dated July 6, 2010
In Reply to Office Action of February 5, 2010

TJA-150US

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

JLE/kpc

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.